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(orig under Agee)

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AGEE DENIES EXPOSING SPY RING TO RUSSIA

LD141609 LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION IN ENGLISH 1543 GMT 14 JAN 77 LD

(TEXT) BY PA STAFF REPORTER--PHILIP AGEЕ, THE FORMER CIA AGENT UNDER THREAT OF DEPORTATION FROM BRITAIN, TODAY DENIED BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPOSURE TO THE RUSSIANS OF A LARGE NATO SPY RING OPERATING UNDER BRITISH CONTROL IN POLAND.

A STORY IN A LOS ANGELES NEWSPAPER SAID THE CIA WAS BLAMING MR AGEЕ FOR DISCLOSING THE SPY RING.

BUT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON DURING A BREAK IN THE PRIVATE HEARING OF HIS APPEAL TO A HOME OFFICE APPOINTED ADVISORY PANEL AGAINST DEPORTATION, MR AGEЕ SAID THE STORY WAS AN ATTEMPT BY THE CIA TO "PIN THIS ON HIM." HE SAID IT WAS A CONTINUATION OF SOMETHING THE CIA HAD BEEN TRYING TO DO SINCE JANUARY LAST YEAR.

HE SAID HE HAD TOLD THE ADVISORY PANEL THAT A POLISH FENCER CALLED PAWLOWSKI WAS ARRESTED IN JUNE 1975; THIS ARREST WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE ARREST OF ANOTHER 120 PEOPLE. PAWLOWSKI WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN AT THE 1968 OLYMPICS WHICH MR AGEЕ ATTENDED FOR THE CIA.

(over)

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency.